

## ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE

fear or by love. You see how long Christ on earth has borne with her, in not having deprived her in fact of what she has lawfully forfeited, only because he waited for her amendment and for love of you. If now he were to do it, he would be acting justly, and stand excused in God's sight and in yours."<sup>1</sup> And to Charles of Durazzo she wrote : " with desire of seeing you a virile knight, fighting manfully for the glory and praise of the name of God, and for the exaltation and reformation of Holy Church " ; bidding him come swiftly to Urban's succour, since God has chosen him to be a column in the Church, an instrument to extirpate heresy and exalt the truth, but first overcome the enemies of his own soul, by purifying his heart and amending his life.<sup>2</sup> She had shortly before sent Neri and another of her followers, the Abate Lisolo, to Naples, with a last appeal to Giovanna herself, imploring her as her *dolcissima madre, carissima madre*, for her own salvation, for the sake of her people whom she was plunging into civil war, to return to the truth before it should be too late. "Alas, how can your heart endure without bursting that your subjects should be divided because of you, and that one should hold the white rose, another the red ; the one cling to the truth, the other to the lie ? See you not that they are all created by that most spotless rose of the eternal will of God, and recreated by grace in that most ardent crimson rose of the blood of Christ ? " <sup>3</sup> Catherine's letter, together with Urban's summons, was probably delivered to Charles at Padua at the beginning of November, and he at once returned to Hungary, to concert measures with the King.

Connected with Charles's presence at Treviso is one of the saddest episodes of Catherine's life. In Florence, after the

<sup>1</sup> Letter 357 (i88). A slightly better text is in the Harleian MS.

<sup>2</sup> Letter 372 (189).

<sup>3</sup> Letter 362 (318). A letter to Neri from Fra Bartolommeo di Domenico, dated Rome, September i (*Lettere del discepolo*, 16), shows that the former had gone to Naples shortly before that date, and that Catherine had at length been compelled to abandon the idea of going thither in person, as the Pope refused his consent.